



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: August 7, 2023
From: Tyler Deems, Interim City Manager
Subject: Revision and Expansion of Utility Customer Assistance Program

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Whether to adopt Resolution 2023-30, revising and expanding the Utility Customer Assistance Program to include drinking water bill assistance in addition to wastewater.

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:

To limit the impact of rising utility rates on low income households in Sandy.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

The City Council originally established the Utility Customer Assistance Program on February 3, 2020 to provide discounted wastewater rates for low income households in Sandy. The Council's intention during these initial stages of the City's wastewater system improvement program (later named [Sandy Clean Waters](#)) was to limit the impact of higher utility rates (which are necessary to fund the system improvements) on households least able to afford increased costs.

As the City has proceeded with [essential upgrades to Sandy's drinking water system](#), it has become necessary to increase drinking water rates as well. The Council has expressed its desire to expand the Utility Customer Assistance Program to apply to both wastewater and drinking water, to ensure that utility bills remain affordable for low income families in Sandy.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

The Council established a discounted rate for drinking water (and reaffirmed the discounted rate for wastewater) with the adoption of the most recent changes to the Master Fee Schedule in Resolution 2023-28. What remains is to update the actual program authorization language to include drinking water in addition to wastewater. Resolution 2023-30 (attached) accomplishes this change. The resolution also ties eligibility to the US HHS Poverty Guidelines for each year as applicable, rather than the previous resolution which referenced the 2019 guidelines specifically.

BUDGET IMPACT:

None. This revision was already accounted for in the BN 2023-25 budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2023-30.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

"I move to adopt Resolution 2023-30."

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Resolution 2023-30